(b) whether the Rubber Board has developed a successful technology for use of rubber on roads; and

(c) if so, whether surplus rubber would be utilised for this essential artery for road transport ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) A small quantity of 11,822 MTs of natural rubber was exported in 1991-92 and 1992-93 (till date) on account of a temporary surplus in the domestic market. Natural rubber is not normally exported as there is usually no surplus. As such, it will not be correct to say that exports of natural rubber have received a set-back.

(b) The Rubber Board has developed knowhow for rubberisation of roads. It has already undertaken rubberisation of roads on a commercial basis on the main roads in Kerala in collaboration with the Kerala Public Works Department.

(c) Some surplus rubber could be used for rubberisation of roads, if State and Central Public Works Departments come forward to adopt this system.

**International Price Reimbursement Scheme**

1643. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have refused budgetary assistance of Rs. 220 crore to fund the International Price Reimbursement Scheme;

(b) if so, whether it would hit the realisation of engineering exports target worth over $2 billion! and

(c) the alternative steps being taken/ proposed to be taken to achieve the target ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) to (c) There is no budget provision for International price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) during 1992-93. International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPRS) is financed from the Engineering Goods Exports Assistance Fund (EGEAF) constituted by levy of cess on pig iron and specified categories of saleable steel produced by the Integrated Steel Plants. But during 1992-93, accruals to EGEAF from out of the cess will not be sufficient to fully meet the requirements of IPRS. Efforts to augment funds for IPRS are being made. The target for export for engineering goods for 1992-93 is likely to be achieved.

**Payments of Exporters to Eastwhile USSR**

1644. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the balance of trade between India and Russia for the year 1991-92 and during the first 6 months of 1992-93;

(b) whether it is a fact that lot of payments for Indian Exports to erstwhile USSR have not been received by our Exporters despite efforts by various agencies; and

(c) what effective steps Government are taking in the matter ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) Presently disaggregated figures for India's trade with Russia are not maintained by

the DGCI&S. The figures on trade between India and USSR/CIS for the year 1991-92 and during the first five months of 1992-93 are as follow :—

| | (In crore rupees) |
|---|---|
| | 1991-92 |
| Imports from USSR/CIS | 1780.26 |
| Exports to USSR/CIS | 3967.31 |
| Balance of Trade | +2188.05 |
| | 1992-93 (April-August, 92) |
| Imports from CIS | 252.26 |
| Exports to CIS | 707.54 |
| Balance of Trade | +451.28 |

(b) and (c) In the wake of the dissolution of the USSR, the Reserve Bank of India was constrained to hold in abeyance operations of the accounts in India of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR. Consequently, reimbursement of payments to exporters was stopped on 27-12-91. Subsequently, the following arrangements were worked out to facilitate payments in respect of trade commitments already made by Indian exporters. The Reserve Bank of India agreed to settle the replenishment claims from authorised dealers in India, maintaining the accounts of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs of USSR, in respect of (i) goods shipped upto 31st December, 1991; (ii) goods shipped after December, 1991 but not later than 31st March, 1992, against Letters of Credit already opened by banks in the erstwhile Soviet Union and advised to the Indian exporters upto 31st December, 1991; and (iii) payment due to Indian project exporters upto 31st December, 1991 and duly certified for payment by the employers. In accordance with these guidelines about Rupees 1312 crores have been paid out to Indian exporters by 30th July, 1992.

**Loss of Foreign Exchange due to Export of Commodities at Lower Prices**

1645. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is losing much foreign exchange due to export of commodities at lower prices than the production cost by some exporters in order to increase the exports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to save the above foreign exchange loss and the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) The export prices are governed by market forces such as demand and supply in the international markets, Quality standards, brand loyalty, market strategies, etc. and are not controlled by the Government. The prices vary from commodity to commodity and for a commodity, from time to time. Hence it is difficult to comment on the fact whether exporters are exporting at lower prices than production costs, as this cannot be easily ascertained from the market.

(b) The Government has brought some commodities under the discipline of Minimum Export Prices under which they cannot be exported at prices below the Minimum Export Price fixed by the relevant authority. Besides, a reasonable foreign exchange realisation is indirectly ensured by imposing export obligations under various schemes such as Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Input-Output and Value-addition norms under Duty Exemption Scheme, Value-addition norms for 100 percent Export Oriented Units, and Export Processing Zones, etc.

**कृषि जन्य वस्तुओं का निर्यात**

1646. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार कृषि जन्य वस्तुओं के निर्यात पर विशेष जोर दे